



## Visitor Program and Event Guide

For Jamaica Bay, Sandy Hook, and Staten Island

### Spring 2010

#### Message from the Superintendent

##### *Visit, Explore, Learn*

*Dawn light captures the flight of a heron against a horizon of skyscrapers and warms massive gray walls that once protected the nation's great city of commerce — this is Gateway National Recreation Area, one of America's preeminent National Parks.*

Well, we did it. We survived some pretty harsh winter weather and spring is indeed around the corner. So why not shake off your cabin fever, dust off your walking shoes and visit Gateway National Recreation Area? Whatever your interest - sightseeing, hiking, camping, bicycling, kayaking, history, nature study, or photography--you will find the park a great place to visit, explore and learn. What better time to visit the park than in the spring?

The programs and events that you see listed in this guide are as varied as our visitors. We hope that you will find some, or many, that suit your interests. I encourage you to visit the park often and let us know about your visit. We want to provide the best experiences for you and your feedback is important to us. You can send us your comments by mail or email (see the contact box on page 11 for details).

Look forward to seeing you out and about at Gateway!

Barry T. Sullivan  
Superintendent

#### Going Green: Receive this Program Guide as a Paperless E – mail

Gateway's Program Guide is green and going greener. You should know that the document you are reading now is printed on recycled paper with soy based ink, and that this is a standard as a publication printed by the US government. But we can go greener.

If you would like to receive this publication by email, we are prepared to do that beginning with the next issue. You may choose to receive both the paper and paperless version or just the email version. The choice is up to you. If you want to receive the Program Guide electronically, please send a message to [gate\\_public\\_affairs@nps.gov](mailto:gate_public_affairs@nps.gov) and put "program guide" in the subject line. Please indicate in your message whether you also wish to receive the snail mail copy. You will need to list your complete name and address.

If you are not currently on our mailing list and wish to be added, please make your wishes known and we will add you! Thanks.

We ask for reservations on many programs for a variety of reasons. While we do our best to accommodate everyone, group size on some programs may be limited. Also, programs may have to be cancelled, or changed due to issues beyond our control, such as severe weather. When planning to attend a park program, please call ahead.



#### A New Bust of Jacob Riis for the Park that Bears His Name

In 1940, a bronze bust of Jacob A. Riis was installed at Bay 9 of Riis Park on a granite base with his name deeply engraved into it. Sadly, the bust was stolen from its pedestal on June 13, 1964. Since then, the pedestal has stood empty.

The students of the Immaculate Conception School's Aquinas Honor Society in Jamaica Estates, New York have made it their goal to honor Riis by replacing this long lost bust to Riis Park. Since selecting Riis as their hero they have created several projects inspired by his life, including two publications.

The bronze bust of Jacob A. Riis will be returned to its empty pedestal after an absence of almost 50 years. The students have commissioned noted American artist David Ostro to make the bust of Riis. Ostro is doing work out of respect for the work of Jacob Riis and the dedication that he has found in the young students who have pushed this project for a number of years.

The unveiling will take place on April 17 at 2 p.m. All are welcome to attend the ceremonies.

## Jamaica Bay

### March

#### Tour the Tip at Breezy Point

Fort Tilden, Bldg. 1

Saturday, March 13

11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Mickey Maxwell Cohen, American Littoral Society naturalist, leads this three-mile walk around the wild, western tip of the Rockaway Peninsula. Participants will carpool to the site. Bring binoculars. Wear sturdy shoes. Reservations required.

#### Fort Tilden Walking Tour

Fort Tilden, Bldg. 1

Saturday, March 13

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Learn about the history of Fort Tilden, the Coastal Artillery Corps, and other national park sites that have a coastal defense story to tell.

#### Tilden Birds:

##### Winter to Spring

Fort Tilden, Bldg 1

Saturday, March 20

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

As winter breaks on the vernal equinox, look for resident birds, migrant ducks, loons and other seabirds with naturalist Ron Bourque. Bring binoculars.

#### Spring Greens

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, March 20

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Spring has sprung and signs are everywhere that park plants are found – in the trees, on the shrubs and, even at ground level. A park ranger will investigate these greens with you on this first day of spring.

#### Woodcock Watch

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, March 21

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Begin with an indoor presentation, and then wait and watch in the dusk for the remarkable American woodcock and his aerobatic courtship display. Bring binoculars. Reservations required.

#### NYC Audubon

##### Early Spring Migrants

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, March 27

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Start with a slide program and then hike around the ponds with naturalist Don Riepe to look for migrating birds and other signs of spring. Reservations required.

#### Nature Photography

##### Workshop

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, March 28

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

See the natural world through the camera lens of Johann Schumacher during an indoor presentation; then hit the trail for an outdoor session with the photographer. Bring a camera or just an interest in photography. Reservations required.

### April

#### “Return-a-Gift” Pond

Floyd Bennett Field

Main Entrance Ranger Station

Saturday, April 10

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Naturalist Ron Bourque will guide the early spring discovery of this unique park site. Participants will carpool to the program site on Floyd Bennett Field. Bring binoculars.

#### National Park Week

April 17 – 25

#### A Walk in the Park

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, April 17

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Kick off National Park Week by taking a walk with a park ranger along the East Pond Trail. Discover what makes this National Park special. Bring binoculars.

#### Riis Bust Dedication

Jacob Riis Park

Bay 9 Mall

Saturday, April 17

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Join us as we unveil David Ostro’s sculpture of Jacob Riis, which will replace the sculpture that has been missing since 1964.

#### Exploring Dead Horse Bay

Floyd Bennett Field

Main Entrance Ranger Station

Saturday, April 17

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Hike the trails and beach of Dead Horse Bay with Mickey Maxwell Cohen of the American Littoral Society. Discover coastal thickets and a treasure-laden beach. Wear sturdy shoes. Bring binoculars. Reservations required.

#### Habitat Defenders –

##### Invasive Plant Removal

Sunday, April 18

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Join this National Volunteer Week effort to help rid the park of damaging invasive plants. Volunteer a couple of hours to help cut, dig, and pull out invasive plants around the West Pond. It can be very therapeutic. Gloves and tools provided. Reservations required.

#### Earth Day Clean-up

North Channel Bridge

Thursday, April 22

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Help spruce up the shores of this busy Jamaica Bay site. Groups are welcome. Call (718) 318–4340 to sign up.

#### Junior Ranger Day

Main Entrance Ranger Station

Floyd Bennett Field

Saturday, April 24

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Calling children of all ages! Join a ranger and explore the unique nature and history of Jamaica Bay! Junior Rangers will be able to earn the Junior Ranger badge and patch.

#### NYC Audubon Spring Bird

##### and Wildflower Hike

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, April 25

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

View a slide presentation and then walk the refuge trails with naturalist Don Riepe to look for migrating birds and spring blossoms. Bring binoculars. Reservations required.

## May

### Afternoon Walk with a Ranger

Ft. Tilden, Bldg. 1

Saturday, May 1

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

It's May Day and time to get out! Take a stroll with a park ranger and stop to discover plants, birds, and shells.

### Birding for the Late - Riser

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, May 2

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Have difficulty catching the early bird? This walk is for you. Seek out elusive birds, explore what birds do in the afternoon, and enjoy a stroll through the South and North Gardens. Bring binoculars.

### International Migratory Bird Day

Migratory Bird Count

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, May 8

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Partner up to seek out birds during migration and do a count of what we find. We'll cover the East Pond Trail, West Pond Trail, and the Gardens – counting all the way. We'll share the results with birding organizations – International Migratory Bird Day, Celebrate Urban Birds, and others. Bring binoculars and a scope, if you have one, and be ready to have a fun time! Reservations required.

### Warbler Walk

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, May 9

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Bring someone special on this guided bird walk. Discover warblers and other songbirds in the South and North Gardens. Bring binoculars.

### NYC Audubon

#### Horseshoe Crab Walk

Plumb Beach Roundhouse

Saturday, May 15

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Look for mating horseshoe crabs and migrating shorebirds with naturalist Don Riepe. Bring binoculars. Reservations required.

### Woodland Birding 101

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, May 16

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Try your hand at warbler watching during the peak of the spring migration. Get some tips as you walk the garden trails. Bring binoculars.

### Hike Floyd Bennett Field

Floyd Bennett Field

Main Entrance Ranger Station

Saturday, May 22

10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Circumnavigate Historic Floyd Bennett Field on a four mile hike. Explore nature and history along the way, with a park ranger. Wear comfortable shoes, bring lunch and drinking water. Reservations required.

### Beach Plum Blossoms at Plumb Beach

Plumb Beach Roundhouse

Sunday, May 23

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

During May, native Beach Plums are in bloom in this dynamic maritime habitat. Enjoy the profusion of flowers while exploring the intricacies of Plumb Beach. Bring binoculars and a magnifying glass. Reservations required.

### Planting with Sprouts

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, May 23

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Young sprouts (kids ages 4-8), with an adult, will examine plant parts from roots to shoots then plant native wildflowers in the visitor center garden. Reservations required.

### Horseshoe Crabs and the Flower Moon

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Friday, May 28

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

High tide, full moon, and the time is right for horseshoe crabs. A park ranger will lead you down the West Pond Trail to witness the amazing activity of the horseshoe crabs and the rise of the Full Flower Moon. Bring binoculars. Reservations required.

### Beach Campfire

Jacob Riis Park

Bay 14 (Beach 169 St.)

Friday, May 28

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Join us for a traditional National Park Service campfire in a beautiful beach setting. A sing-along will follow. Bring a beach chair or blanket, and marshmallows! Reservations required.

### Horseshoe Crabs at Plumb Beach

Plumb Beach Roundhouse

Saturday, May 29

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

We're expecting horseshoe crabs to come ashore as their ancestors have for eons. Naturalist Ron Bourque will guide you through this exciting event. Call 718-338-3799 to register.

### Jamaica Bay Ecology Cruise

Sheepshead Bay

Saturday, May 29

2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Enjoy a 3-hour boat tour of Jamaica Bay with the American Littoral Society. Learn about the history, ecology, and wildlife of the bay. Look for nesting peregrine falcons, osprey, egrets, and more. Cost: \$45 includes narrated tour and on-board snacks. For information and reservations, call (718) 318-9344.

### NYC Audubon

#### Horseshoe Crab Hike

North Channel Bridge

Sunday, May 30

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge and carpool to the North Channel Bridge to look for mating horseshoe crabs and shorebirds with naturalist Don Riepe. Bring binoculars. Reservations required.

## Continuing Programs

### Fly Fishing Workshops

Floyd Bennett Field  
Sundays, starting June 6  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Join expert fishermen for 5 workshops that will cover the art of fly casting. Equipment will be provided. There is a \$50 registration fee. Space is limited; reservations required. Call (718) 338-3799 for more information.

### Historic Aircraft Restoration Project

Floyd Bennett Field  
Hangar B  
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Observe park volunteers as they restore vintage aircraft.

### School Groups Take Flight

Hangar B; Thursdays  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
School groups are encouraged to learn about aerodynamics and flight with this guided interactive program led by volunteers from the Historic Aircraft Restoration Project. Call 718-338-3799 for reservations.

### The Night Sky

Floyd Bennett Field  
Radio Control Flying Field  
Friday, March 19, April 23, May 21  
8 p.m. – 10 p.m.  
Come gaze at the wonders of the night sky over Floyd Bennett Field with the Amateur Astronomers Association. Weather permitting; clear or partly clear skies. Telescopes will be provided.



## Floyd Bennett Garden Association

### The Salad Garden

Floyd Bennett Field  
Building 69  
Saturday, March 6  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Presenter Bob Halligan will provide tips for growing all of the ingredients that you need for tasty salads.

### Gardeners Forum

Floyd Bennett Field  
Building 69  
Sunday, March 14  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Learn about soil, planting your garden, watering, community gardening, and more.

### Companion Planting

Floyd Bennett Field  
Building 69  
Sunday, March 21  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Join Adriann Musson and learn which plants help each other, which plants repel bugs, and which plants do not get along.

### Tips for a Productive Garden

Floyd Bennett Field  
Building 69  
Saturday, March 27  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Make the most of your limited gardening space. Improve yields, and extend the season, by intercropping, succession planting, wide rows, cold frames, raised beds and more.

### Garden Sign Workshop

Floyd Bennett Field  
Building 69  
Saturday, April 10  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Join us to make a sign to identify your garden. We will supply the paint and wood. Registration required; space is limited. Call (718) 338-3799, or e-mail FBGAgardens@aol.com.

### Not Just Tomatoes

Floyd Bennett Field  
Building 69  
Saturday, April 17  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Join award-winning gardener Tom Ingram to learn how to grow summer's favorite vegetables – tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, beans and more.

### Improving Your Soil Organically

Floyd Bennett Field  
Building 69  
Saturday, April 24  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Soil is the key to a great garden! Learn how to compost, cover crops, mulches and more.

### Squash This!

Floyd Bennett Field  
Building 69  
Saturday, May 1  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Squash is one of the few vegetables native to America. This class provides tips and techniques for growing summer and winter varieties. Also cooking tips, and more.

### Grow Organic: Natural Fertilizers and Insecticides

Floyd Bennett Field  
Building 69  
Saturday, May 8  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Learn how to control pest and disease in your garden the organic way, and about natural, environmentally friendly fertilizers.

### Lasagna Gardening

Floyd Bennett Field  
Community Garden Gazebo  
Saturday, May 15  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Make double duty out of your gardening bed. Is it a compost pile or a bed for gardening? It's both! Learn how to grow while creating compost.

### Please Eat the Daisies

Floyd Bennett Field  
Community Garden Gazebo  
Saturday, May 22  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Learn about edible wildflowers and greens, and then join us for a garden walk. Find, prepare, and dine on a delicious and colorful wild salad.



## Rockaway Artists Alliance

Two Multimedia Events:  
Studio 6 & Studio 7, Fort Tilden  
March 13 – April 3  
Saturdays and Sundays  
12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

### To Our Idols

What inspires us? From places to objects to people – contemporary, historical or fictional, famous or not, “Idols” seeks creative answers to this question.

### Bodies of Work

This juried exhibition invites artist’s unique talents to explore the human body represented in all its phases, incarnations and views. Figures clothed or not, still or in motion, alone or in any setting or background.

### Spring Equinox

Fort Tilden, Studio 7  
Saturday, March 20  
8 p.m. – 12 a.m.  
A diverse musical celebration

### Forty Shades of Green

Fort Tilden, Studio 7  
April 18 – May 23  
Incorporating the color and idea of “green,” as in recycled, renewed, and renewable, this juried exhibition seeks works in all mediums. The varieties of the color and the green ethos are the subject; the unique and vivid ways artists portray this will bring the theme to life.

### kidsmART After School

Fort Tilden, Building T149  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
March 2 – May 6  
3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
An art focused afterschool program.

### Open Mic Night

Fort Tilden, Studio 6  
Every Thursday, 8pm until 10pm  
(7:45 p.m. signup to participate)  
Your chance to perform in front of a live audience, or just watch. Free.

## Coming This Summer

### Jamaica Bay “BioBlitz”

Floyd Bennett Field  
Friday, June 11 – Saturday, June 12  
3 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Discover the biological diversity found within Jamaica Bay. You can participate in field explorations and assist with species counts, learn about the natural ecosystems through public walks and displays; or volunteer to assist with the event.

For more information, e – mail JBBioBlitz@yahoo.com, or visit nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/jamaicabay/

### Introduction to Kayaking

Canarsie Pier

This free program will provide beginning instruction on the use of kayaks, one of the greenest and healthiest ways to enjoy Jamaica Bay from the water. Kayaks, paddles and personal floatation devices will be provided. Plan on getting wet, and dress appropriately. Call for reservations, beginning on June 1 (718) 338 – 3799.

### Individual Sailing Instruction

Floyd Bennett Field

Building 69

Thursdays

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

This program will provide beginner and intermediate sailing instruction. There will be a small fee to cover program cost. Space is limited; make reservations after June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Youth Group Camping

Floyd Bennett Field

Ecology Village

Mondays through Thursdays

July 6 – August 26

Kids camp overnight in tents, prepare meals outdoors, practice teamwork and explore nature in the urban outback of Floyd Bennett Field. Call (718) 338 – 4306 for more information on leader training, fees and scheduling.

### Youth Group Sailing

Floyd Bennett Field

Ryan Visitor Center

July and August

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Youth groups develop an appreciation for the marine environment while learning the basics of sailing. Program accommodates 25 participants per day. Space is limited, reservations required.

## Rockaway Theater Company

All shows are performed in the Post Theater at Ft. Tilden. Call RTC Hotline for reservations to all shows, (718) 374 – 6400, or visit us on the web at: [www.rockawaytheatrecompany.org](http://www.rockawaytheatrecompany.org).

### Seussical JR: the Musical

Presented by the RTC Young People’s Theatre Workshop  
Book and Music by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flemming  
Direction by Peggy Page  
Musical Direction by Jodee Timpone and Richard Louis-Pierre

March 6, 12, & 13  
7 p.m.

Matinees: March 5, 7, & 13  
2 p.m.

### St. Patrick’s Day Sing – along

Featuring – The Gilleece Twins & Chris Benedict  
Sunday, March 14  
2 p.m.

### Rabbit Hole

Written by David Lindsay-Abaire  
Directed by Frank Caiati

April 9, 10, 13, 16, 17, 23, & 24  
8 p.m.

Matinees: 11, 18, & 25  
2 p.m.

## Sandy Hook

### Park Hours:

March 1 – 31

6 a.m. – 8 p.m.

April – November 1

5 a.m. – 10 p.m.

### Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Daily 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

(732) 872 – 5970

The Visitor Center is in the historic 1892 Spermaceti Cove Life - saving Station and featuring exhibits, films, a bookstore and a staffed information desk.

### Sandy Hook Lighthouse and Keepers Quarters

March 1 – 31

Weekends, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

April 1 – May 30,

Weekdays, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Weekends, 12 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The 1884 Keeper's Quarters has exhibits on New Jersey lighthouses. The nearby keeper's barn is always open with a video on the history of the Sandy Hook lighthouse. The lighthouse tower can be climbed in the afternoon. You must be 48 inches tall to climb the tower.

### History House

Saturdays and Sundays

1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

### Battery Potter

Saturdays and Sundays

May 1 – May 31

1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### Nike Missile Radar Site

Parking Area L at Horseshoe Cove

April 10, 24, May 1, 15, April 18

2 – 4 p.m.

May 23, 12 – 4 p.m.

### Sandy Hook Bird Observatory

Building 20, Fort Hancock's

Officer's Row

Tuesdays – Saturdays,

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sundays

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Bookshop, displays, and birding programs. Call (732) 872 – 2500.

## Sandy Hook Migration Watch

Battery Peck Observation Deck

Open Daily, March 15 – May 15

(weather permitting).

Contact Sandy Hook Bird

Observatory at (732) 872-2500 or

shbo@njudubon.org for more

information.

## March

### Battery Gunnison Preserved

Battery Gunnison

Saturday, March 13

12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Members of the Army Ground Forces Association will be in 1943 era coast artillery uniform as they restore and interpret Battery Gunnison and its 6-inch guns. Step back in time to March 1943, to when the battery was being prepared for initial activation with the movement of the two 6-inch guns from old Battery Peck.

### Night Prowl

Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Saturday, March 13

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Explore a Sandy Hook habitat on this night-time hike. Bring your five senses and a flashlight.

### Harbor Lights

Twin Lights State Historic Site

Highlands, NJ

Sunday, March 14

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Discover the lighthouses, lightships, and buoys that guide ships into New York Harbor. Bring binoculars.

Reservations required. Call (732)

872 – 1812.

### American Littoral Society Spring Equinox Shore Walk

Fort Hancock – Guardian Park

Saturday, March 20

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

It's one of two days in the year when daylight and darkness have agreed to equally share the day...and a great evening for a nature walk! Reservations required. Call (732) 291 – 0055

## April

### Woodcock and Osprey Walk

Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Saturday, April 3

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

See osprey and search for woodcocks returning from migration. Expect public displays of affection as the birds put on their courting shows, or a "sky dance."

### Junior Ranger Firefighter

Fire Station Number One (across from the Sandy Hook Light)

Wednesday, April 7

4 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Children ages 7 – 14 work alongside National Park Service Firefighters to recreate how fires are extinguished at Fort Hancock now and in the past, using everything from hose carts to fire engines. Reservations required.

## National Park Week April 17 – 25

### NJ Audubon & Monmouth County Audubon Societies Hawks Aloft

Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Parking Lot

Saturday, April 17

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Join naturalists to search for ospreys, falcons, and other hawks that rest and feed at Sandy Hook during migration. Also explore some bayside areas for waterfowl and other birds. Bring binoculars.

### NJ Audubon Society Thursday Morning Bird Walk

Guardian Park

April 15, 22, 29 and

May 6, 13, 20, 27

8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Join naturalists from Sandy Hook Bird Observatory for morning birding at one of New Jersey's best migratory hotspots. Search for flycatchers, warblers, orioles, and sparrows. Pre – register for this fee program by calling Sandy Hook Bird Observatory at (732) 872 – 2500 or at shbo@njudubon.org.

**Earth Day Holly Forest Walk**  
Sandy Hook Visitor Center  
Saturday, April 17  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
A ranger-led walk through Sandy Hook's maritime holly forest.

**Weird Sandy Hook**  
Fort Hancock Theater Parking Lot  
Saturday April 17  
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.  
Think you know everything about Sandy Hook? Discover places where strange but true events took place on the Hook. Find out where "Pilot Tom," the weeping whale, scared the army's bravest soldiers, and where and why post commander Colonel Deems almost lost his job for the love of a fox terrier named Riley. Visitors will get to be explosive experts at the site of the deadly army proving ground and help solve mysteries from Fort Hancock's spooky and explosive past.

**NJ Audubon Society  
Birding for Beginners**  
Parking Lot B  
Sunday April 18  
8 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
If you are new to birding, this is the trip for you. Join a naturalist from the Sandy Hook Bird Observatory to learn the fundamentals of bird identification while visiting the diverse habitats of Sandy Hook. Bring binoculars. This program is free, but call the Sandy Hook Bird Observatory to register at (732) 872-2500.

**Junior Ranger Air Defenders**  
Fire Station Number One (across from the Sandy Hook Light)  
Wednesday, April 21  
4 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.  
Children 7 to 12 visit Sandy Hook's Nike missile battery, then build a model Nike rocket of their own, and learn to fire it, the Nike Missile-man way. Reservations required.

**25<sup>th</sup> Annual COA  
Spring Beach Sweep**  
Parking Lot D  
Saturday, April 24  
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Help clean the beaches at the annual statewide Clean Ocean Action Spring Beach Sweeps. All ages welcome. Bring work gloves, dress for the weather and wear closed sole shoes. The event is rain or shine. Visit [www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org) for more information or call (732) 872-0111.

**Going Bunkers**  
Fort Hancock Museum  
Sunday, April 25  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Discover the role Sandy Hook played in New York Harbor defenses. Explore hidden fortifications normally closed to the public. Reservations are required.

**Junior Ranger Crab Invaders!**  
Sandy Hook Visitor Center  
Wednesday April 28  
4 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.  
Children ages 7 to 12 will learn about some crabs invading our shores. Shape a crab out of clay then head out to Horseshoe Cove and be a 'Crab Scientist,' catching collecting and counting these crab invaders. Call (732) 872-5970 to reserve.

## May

**American Littoral Society  
Open House**  
Saturday, May 1  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
We used to call it Member's Day, but now we're inviting non-members to join us. Come and get a feel for the love of nature and camaraderie that Littoral Society members and staff share. Join us for a day of fun and learning for all ages - catch up on our recent successes and threats to the coast and explore Sandy Hook's unique environment with our expert naturalists. Bring a picnic lunch, lawn chair or blanket. Rain date: Sunday, May 2. \$5 per person, kids 12 and under are free.

**NJ Audubon Society  
Birding for Beginners**  
Sandy Hook Visitor Center  
Parking Lot  
Sunday, May 2  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Search the bayside wetlands and forested areas of Sandy Hook for a variety of spring migrants including flycatchers, vireos, and warblers. We may also visit the Sandy Hook Migration Watch to see what hawks may be flying by. Bring binoculars.

**Sandy Hook Lighthouse  
Battles of the American  
Revolution**  
Lighthouse Parking Lot  
Sunday, May 2  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Join Monmouth County's celebration: "A Weekend in Old Monmouth." National Park Service rangers will take you to the location of three attacks on the lighthouse during the American Revolution. The tour will culminate with British and Hessian soldier's tales, retold at the site of the British Army's grand 1778 embarkation from Monmouth County on Sandy Hook.

**Junior Ranger Firefighter**  
Fire Station Number One (across from the Sandy Hook Light)  
Wednesday, May 5  
4 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.  
Children ages 7 – 14 work alongside National Park Service Firefighters to recreate how fires are extinguished at Fort Hancock now and in the past, using everything from hose carts to fire engines. Reservations required.

**Holly Forest Exploration**  
Sandy Hook Visitor Center  
Saturday, May 8  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Some of the oldest American holly trees in the country can be found in Sandy Hook's nearly 300 acres of holly forest. Join the American Littoral Society for this hike through the 64-acre maritime forest and see some of its oldest, rarest, and largest holly trees. Waterproof footwear is recommended. \$5 per person, kids under 12 free.

**Wildflower Walk**  
Sandy Hook Visitor Center  
Saturday, May 8  
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Discover, identify and enjoy the beauty of spring wildflowers on this nature walk.

## Junior Ranger Coast Artillery Corps Gunner

Sandy Hook Visitor Center  
Wednesday, May 12  
4 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Children ages 7 – 12 will learn and practice the duties of army soldiers who were cannoneers at Fort Hancock during WWII. Call (732) 872 – 5970 to reserve.

## Night Prowl

Sandy Hook Visitor Center  
Saturday, May 15  
8 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Explore a Sandy Hook habitat on this night hike. Bring your five senses and a flashlight.

## Junior Ranger Horseshoe Crab Scientists

Sandy Hook Visitor Center  
Wednesday, May 19  
4 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

The horseshoe crab's ancestors were here when dinosaurs lived 200 million years ago. Be a horseshoe crab scientist and learn how to rescue horseshoe crabs in danger. Call (732) 872 – 5970 for reservations.

## World War II

### Harbor Defense Lantern Tour

Fort Hancock Museum  
Friday, May 21  
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

This very special night tour explores how Fort Hancock's big guns protected New York City during World War II. Join a ranger and volunteers from the Army Ground Forces Association, all in 1943 army uniform, for a walk through the Mortar Battery, Battery Potter (Advanced Harbor Entrance Control Post #1) and Battery Gunnison. Bring a flashlight.



## Battery Gunnison Preserved

Battery Gunnison  
Saturday, May 22  
12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Volunteers from the Army Ground Forces Association will be in 1943 era coast artillery uniform as they restore and interpret Battery Gunnison and its 6 – inch guns. Go back in time to May 1943 as the battery is being prepared for initial activation.

## Memorial Day

### Nike Missile Defenses Tour

Guardian Park  
Monday, May 31  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Remember our Veterans! Join a car caravan tour to visit the Nike missile sites on Sandy Hook. This year marks the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the tragic Middletown Nike Missile explosion on May 22, 1958.

## New Jersey

### Coastal Heritage Trail

[www.nps.gov/neje](http://www.nps.gov/neje)

## Education opportunities at Sandy Hook

Groups interested in education programs contact:

### NJ Marine Sciences

**Consortium / NJ Sea Grant**  
(732) 872 – 1300, or [www.njmsc.org](http://www.njmsc.org)

### Brookdale Community College Ocean Institute

(732) 224 – 2435, or  
[www.brookdalecc.edu/staff/sandyhook/index.html](http://www.brookdalecc.edu/staff/sandyhook/index.html)



Sandy Hook is a "Carry in – Carry out" facility

## Coastal Defense Day and Ocean Fun Day

Sunday, May 23

## Battery Gunnison

12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Volunteers from the Army Ground Forces Association will be in World War II uniform and bring Battery Gunnison and its 6-inch guns to life as it was in May 1943. Participate in loading the guns, be a gun pointer and learn to track ships. Visit the plotting room to see how the guns were aimed, and the magazine to learn how ammunition was stored and handled.

## Fort Hancock Parade Ground

12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Tour the gun batteries built on Sandy Hook and discover how Sandy Hook's fortifications defended New York Harbor from the 1890's to the 1970's. The Roseland Amateur Radio Club will conduct shortwave radio broadcasts at the Sandy Hook Lighthouse.

## History House

12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

An Officers Row house furnished circa 1940s. W W II re-enactors will be onsite with their camp exhibit. Refreshments will be served.

## NJ Marine Sciences Consortium

Building 22, Fort Hancock  
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

NJMSC Annual Open House with exhibits, eco and historic tours, touch tanks, crab races, kids' activities and more. Free. Call NJMSC at 732-872-1300, ext. 19 for more information. On the web: [www.njmsc.org](http://www.njmsc.org).

## NOAA Open House

James J. Howard Marine  
Laboratory

During Ocean Fun Day, check out the laboratories, aquariums and scientific work done at the Laboratory. For more information, visit <http://sh.nefsc.noaa.gov>, or call (732) 872 – 3000.



## Sandy Hook Cooperators

The National Park Service's partners in education and research at Sandy Hook are:

American Littoral Society  
(732) 291 – 0055  
[www.littoralsociety.org](http://www.littoralsociety.org)

Army Ground Forces Association  
[www.armygroundforces.org](http://www.armygroundforces.org)

Brookdale Community College  
(732) 224 – 2435  
[www.brookdaleecc.edu/staff/sandyhook/index.html](http://www.brookdaleecc.edu/staff/sandyhook/index.html)

Clean Ocean Action  
(732) 872 – 0111  
[www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org)

Marine Academy of Science and Technology  
(732) 872 – 1762  
[www.mast.mcvsd.org](http://www.mast.mcvsd.org)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Northeast Fisheries Center, Sandy Hook Laboratory  
(732) 872 – 3000  
<http://sh.nefsc.noaa.gov>  
James J. Howard Marine Laboratory  
(732) 872 – 1762

New Jersey Lighthouse Society  
(732) 291 – 4777  
[www.njhs.org](http://www.njhs.org)

New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium/New Jersey Sea Grant  
(732) 872 – 1300  
[www.njmsc.org](http://www.njmsc.org)

Rutgers University Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences  
<http://marine.rutgers.edu/>

Sandy Hook Bird Observatory  
New Jersey Audubon  
(732) 872 – 2500  
[www.njaudubon.org](http://www.njaudubon.org)

Sandy Hook Foundation  
(732) 291 – 7733  
[www.sandyhookfoundation.org](http://www.sandyhookfoundation.org)

Sandy Hook Partners  
(732) 708 – 9010  
[www.thefortatsandyhook.org](http://www.thefortatsandyhook.org)

## Staten Island

### Fort Wadsworth Walking Tours

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center  
Wednesdays – Sundays  
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Ranger – led tours of the fortifications.

## March

### Women's Suffrage

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center  
Saturday, March 6  
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.  
Join this Women's History Month discussion about efforts to grant females voting rights in the U.S. from the early 1800s through 1920.

### Waterfowl Walk

Great Kills Park Ranger Station  
Sunday, March 14  
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Observe a variety of birds in their winter habitat at Great Kills Park. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. Reservations required.

### Mont Sec House in Words

Fort Wadsworth  
112A Mont Sec Avenue  
Saturday, March 20  
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.  
Experience Mont Sec House through the letters written by an officer to his wife. Learn how a family lived and played in the fort and New York City during the 1880s. Reservations required.

### Astronomy Night

Great Kills Park Overflow Parking Lot  
Saturday, March 20  
7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.  
The Amateur Astronomers Association will lead a tour of the evening sky. Telescopes will be available, or you can bring your own. In the event of inclement weather the program will be cancelled.

## Fort Wadsworth Film Festival: Staten Island Revisited

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center  
Sunday, March 21  
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.  
Join guest speaker Andy Levinson, Communication and Media Coordinator for the Staten Island Borough President's Office, for this video tour of the beautiful and secret places of Staten Island.

## Fort Wadsworth Film Festival: Once Upon a Time on Staten Island

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center  
Sunday, March 28  
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.  
Producer and filmmaker Art Siegel will guide you through the Staten Island of today and yesteryear.

## Sea Arts and Shell Crafts

Miller Field Ranger Station  
Saturday, March 27  
12 p.m. – 2 p.m.  
Craft a necklace, keychain, or picture frame using natural treasures from the sea. Supplies and materials will be provided. All ages are welcome. Reservations required.

## April

### Coffee with a Ranger

Great Kills Park Education Field Station  
Saturday, April 10  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Meet a park ranger and chat over a fresh cup of coffee. Discover what Gateway National Recreation Area has to offer.

## National Park Week April 17 – 25

Lenape Lore  
Great Kills Park Education Field Station  
Saturday, April 17  
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Learn about the first people on Staten Island, the Lenape. Find out how their lives were closely tied to nature.

Discover their beliefs, hear words from their language, listen to Lenape stories, and learn the games they played. Reservations required.

### Astronomy Night

Great Kills Park  
Overflow Parking Lot  
Saturday, April 17  
Sunset

The Amateur Astronomers Association will lead a tour of the evening sky. Telescopes will be available or you can bring your own. In the event of inclement weather the program will be cancelled.

### Respect the Beach

Fort Wadsworth  
Visitor Center  
Sunday, April 18  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day by joining this beach cleaning effort at Fort Wadsworth. Bring drinking water; work gloves and trash bags will be provided.

### After – School Programs

Huguenot Library  
Tuesday, April 20  
4 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Children ages 8 – 11 can explore the National Park Service portable discovery station and learn about native plants and animals.

### Richmondtown Library

Wednesday, April 21  
4 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Children ages 8 – 11 can explore the National Park Service portable discovery station and learn about Earth Day and our National Parks.

### Junior Rangerpalooza

Great Kills Park  
Education Field Station  
Saturday, April 24  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Come celebrate National Park Week and Junior Ranger Day at beautiful Great Kills Park. Fun, educational activities will be available for children of all ages. Explore the effects of pollution on a watershed through experimentation, try your hand at “fishing” for local species, or discover the birds of Staten Island through

watching and coloring. See site for schedule of events, activities run all day, weather permitting.

### Earth Day Beach Cleanup

Great Kills Park  
Beach Center  
Parking Lot G  
Sunday, April 25  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Join park rangers for a spring cleaning of the beach and maritime dune area. Bring work gloves and drinking water.

### Fort Wadsworth Film Festival: Treasures in the Harbor

Fort Wadsworth  
Visitor Center  
Sunday, April 25  
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Enjoy this PBS film dedicated to the little known treasures found in New York Harbor.

## May

### International Migratory Bird Day

Great Kills Park  
Education Field Station  
Saturday, May 8  
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Celebrate the return of spring and its songbirds during this morning of birding with a ranger.

### Hike with Your Pooch and a Ranger

Great Kills Park  
Education Field Station  
Saturday, May 15  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Bring along your favorite canine on this ranger-guided nature walk. Discover the beauty of nature as you explore Great Kills Park from maritime forest to shoreline. Well-socialized and people-friendly dogs only, and on a leash, please. Remember leave no trace, so bring a bag to clean up after your pet.

### The Art of Kite Flying

Saturday, May 15  
Miller Field Ranger Station  
12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Kids and adults will gather to build their own kites and launch them from

this former military airfield. All materials will be provided. Reservations required. Call (718) 351 – 6970.

### Astronomy Night

Great Kills Park  
Overflow Parking lot  
Saturday, May 15  
Sunset

The Amateur Astronomers Association will lead a tour of the evening sky. Telescopes will be available or you can bring your own. In the event of inclement weather the program will be cancelled.

### The Secret Places of Fort Wadsworth

Fort Wadsworth  
Visitor Center  
Sunday, May 16  
12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Join a ranger for a hike to areas off the beaten trail at Fort Wadsworth. Wear sturdy footwear (no sandals) and bring drinking water and sunscreen.

### Shorebird Migration

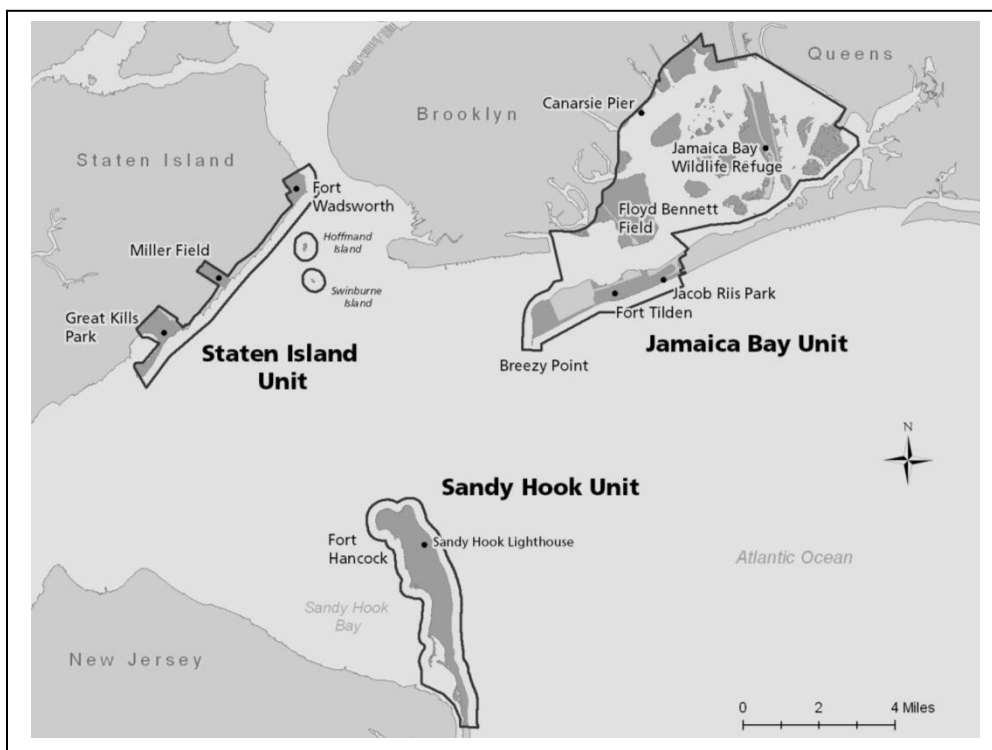
Great Kills Park  
Ranger Station  
Sunday, May 16  
12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Low tide at Great Kills Park offers a great opportunity to view migrating shorebirds. Bring binoculars. Call (718) 987-6790 for reservations.

### On the Home Front: Women of World War II

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center  
Friday, May 21, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Women did their part for the war effort. “Rosie the Riveter” became a symbol for those working in defense plants. Homemakers coped with rationing and even children helped by collecting scrap. Join us for a power point presentation and discussion.





### ***For Your Safety...***



Lifeguards will be on duty at Gateway's beaches, beginning on Memorial Day weekend. For your safety, please swim only on guarded beaches.

Prior to Memorial Day, Gateway's beaches are unguarded, and visitors are urged to use extreme caution at all times. Springtime beaches can contain strong waves, rip currents and sharp drop offs beneath the surf.

Unguarded beaches provide the visitor with no advanced warning to these hazards. In the event of an emergency, call the National Park Service Rangers at Sandy Hook, or the United States Park Police at Jamaica Bay and Staten Island.

## **Gateway National Recreation Area**

**Headquarters**  
210 New York Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10305

### **Contact Information**

For updated information on park programs, or to make reservations, please contact the following sites, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.:

### **Communications and Public Affairs**

(718) 354 – 4606

Contact us by e – mail:  
GATE\_Public\_Affairs@nps.gov

### **Jamaica Bay (New York)**

**Floyd Bennett Field  
Ranger Station**  
(All Jamaica Bay permit sales.)  
(718) 338 – 3799

**Jacob Riis Park / Fort Tilden**  
(Bathhouse open seasonally. For programs scheduled at these sites, please call the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.)

**Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge**  
(718) 318 – 4340

### **Sandy Hook (New Jersey)**

**Visitor Center**  
(732) 872 – 5970

### **Staten Island (New York)**

**Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center**  
(718) 354 – 4500

**Great Kills Park**  
(Staten Island permit sales)  
(718) 987 – 6790

**Miller Field**  
(718) 351 – 6970  
(Staten Island permit sales)





**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Gateway National Recreation Area  
Office of Communications and Public Affairs  
210 New York Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10305

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## Visitor Programs Spring 2010

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**Gateway National Recreation Area**  
**New Jersey / New York**

**Superintendent**  
**Gateway National Recreation Area**  
Barry T. Sullivan

**Acting Deputy Superintendent**  
Suzanne McCarthy

**Chief of Interpretation**  
Jeanette Parker

**[www.nps.gov/gate](http://www.nps.gov/gate)**

**24 - Hour  
Emergency Numbers:**

**National Park Service**  
**(Sandy Hook, New Jersey)**  
**(732) 872 – 5900**

**United States Park Police**  
**(Jamaica Bay and**  
**Staten Island New York)**  
**(718) 338 – 3988**



*Photo by Jackie Stone*

Every year, National Park Week is proclaimed by the President. It is a celebration of the National Park Service and the special places it protects. During National Park Week, April 17-24, you can find a variety of activities, programs, and events at sites throughout the National Park system. These sites are archetypes of natural landscapes and of our diverse, yet shared, heritage. You can recreate, seize the opportunity to learn and grow, or ease into a place of refuge or contemplation.

Visit a National Park site for a day, an hour or more, or even take a virtual trip using the web ([www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)).

Check out all of Gateway's National Park Week, National Volunteer Week, Earth Day, and Junior Ranger Day programs for 2010. Open the pages of this program guide, or visit [www.nps.gov/gate](http://www.nps.gov/gate), to explore, examine, learn, and do. Find the right activity, program, or event for you and "Experience Your America."